

PEACE NEWS

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FOURPENCE

'WAR on WANT'



These Indian children, begging for food on a railway track in Bihar, are a grim reminder that in 1952 there is less food in the world than there was 15 years ago. Some western countries consume more food today while Asia, frequent victim of famine, gets less.

"War on Want" is the theme for a meeting to be addressed by the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson in Conway Hall, London, on Monday.

Foreign Office 'jittery' over 'Mainbrace'

WRITING in Tuesday's News Chronicle on the NATO naval exercises in Baltic waters, columnist A. J. Cummings asks what we should be able to do if the Soviet Government decided to undertake an impressive exercise in the English Channel as a kind of cold war reprisal.

"I am told that our own Foreign Office became rather jittery when it was made fully aware of the scope of 'Operation Mainbrace'—and well it might," wrote Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Churchill has gone on record as saying that manoeuvres near the Danish island of Bornholm would be "needlessly provocative and might lead to Soviet retaliation."

KOREAN PEACE TALKS

Quakers send new proposals to Mr. Churchill

SUGGESTIONS to lead to peace in Korea have been forwarded by the Society of Friends in Great Britain to Mr. Winston Churchill.

These proposals were approved by Meeting for Sufferings, the executive body of the Society, on September 5, and sent to the Prime Minister in the following form:

We fully appreciate the unflagging efforts on the part of the negotiators at Panmunjom in a situation of unparalleled difficulty, and we recognise that the Governments concerned are deeply anxious to achieve peace, but in a situation where neither side is clearly victorious, and where strong passions have been aroused, it is obviously difficult to find terms that inspire confidence on both sides.

(1) First, then, we suggest the establishment of a cease-fire immediately, on the conditions already agreed upon by the negotiators at Panmunjom, leaving the unresolved issues, especially the matter of the release of prisoners, to fresh negotiations after the fighting has stopped.

This suggestion we make for two reasons. First, even if it causes some delay on both sides in the return of prisoners to their homes, it means an earlier cessation of the carnage and destruction. The daily continuance of war measures is, in our opinion, constantly embittering the situation and endangering world peace generally.

Bring in fresh minds

Further, it seems to us high time that the negotiators at Panmunjom be released from their exacting and exhausting labours, and that fresh minds be brought to bear on the problems that remain unsolved.

(2) In the matter of re-screening and release of prisoners of war, we suggest that the negotiations be put into the hands of a commission either representing a few Asian Governments in which both sides have confidence, or a mixed commission of two appointed by each side.

We realise that adherence to the strict letter of the Geneva Convention involves the return of all prisoners without question. At the same time it should be recognised that the main purpose of the Geneva Convention

The horrors of Napalm bombing

SCIENTISTS REVEAL NEW FACTS: APPEAL FOR PUBLIC PROTEST

THE napalm (petrol jelly) bomb is not just another type of fire bomb, but an unprecedented terror weapon for use against civil populations.

This is the answer British scientists, members of "Science for Peace," have given to the American Secretary for Defence, Mr. Robert Lovett, who recently declared that napalm was only a "form of fire," and that fire had been used as a weapon since Biblical days.

"Science for Peace" has made known new facts about napalm in a pamphlet* published this week and has called for further vigorous protests against the use of this weapon "in the name of humanity and the good repute of science."

The magnesium bombs used in the last war, say the British scientists, could not start a fire unless they fell close to inflammable material. The oil and petrol bombs which followed them spread their contents more widely, but burnt too rapidly to be really effective.

The burst of a napalm bomb, however, produces a cloud of burning petrol which expands to a diameter of 50 to 100 yards, engulfing and penetrating buildings. In the few seconds it burns, it creates temperatures sufficiently high to soften steel.

"The effect on the human body of being drenched in petrol and then ignited has been demonstrated before the advent of napalm," says the pamphlet, "but never before on such a scale."

Effects of napalm bombs

The typical result of a slight exposure to napalm is described as follows:

"The subject is hairless, due to loss of scalp. His face is a uniform scar, with running and infected eyes which he can never close. He is probably blind. His hands, if exposed, are reduced to con-

* "Napalm," 1s.

tracted claws. Ears, nostrils, lips and fingertips are likely to have been lost. Painful scars will also occur on any part of the body reached by the burning material."

The effects of napalm burns differ from those of other deep and extensive burns in that they have an unusual tendency to produce keloids, that is, thickened areas of scar tissue, which apart from being unsightly produce contractures with reduced function of the part. Moreover they tend to recur if they are removed surgically.

Indiscriminate use

The pamphlet quotes descriptions of actual incidents by former Daily Telegraph correspondent, Reginald Thompson, and other journalists, which have focused public attention on the horrors of this weapon, and emphasises the indiscriminate nature of the damage caused. Close to the centre of the burst, the result is "almost instantaneous death by incineration of every man, woman and child."

"Napalm is a product of deliberate research," the pamphlet concludes. "Its only purpose is the annihilation of human beings and the destruction of property. It is being employed in Korea in our name, and it is an unavoidable issue of conscience whether we shall condone such a policy, or protest as vigorously as possible in the name of humanity and the good repute of science."

Terrorising civilians

A letter from Mr. T. A. Collins published in last week's New Statesman and Nation also describes the effects of napalm, and urges that if this "unconventional weapon" is considered suitable for use in a United Nations' war against aggression, the Americans should at least refrain from pouring it on the civilian population of North Korea.

He points out that the leaflets which were recently showered down on 78 North Korean towns, warning them of the bombing attacks, can only add the horrors of anticipation to the other horrors endured by the people we are purporting to liberate, since it would be impossible to evacuate the whole civilian population of these towns.

"Is it too much to hope that our leaders will take a stand against the use of air power to terrorise civilians with the threat of mass murder?" asks Mr. Collins.

(Sir Richard Gregory—page 6)

KEEP GERMANY NEUTRAL

— 16 signatories

AN appeal for a peaceful solution of the German problem by sixteen prominent supporters of the Committee for a Peaceful Solution of The German Problem has been sent to the Presidents of the French Republic and of West Germany.

In Britain the appeal was published in the form of the following letter to The Times on September 15:

Believing as strongly and sincerely as we do that the policy represented by the Contractual agreement with Germany and the European Defence Treaty will gravely intensify the tension between east and west, increase the danger of another world war, and seriously jeopardise the possibility of German unity, we cannot acquiesce in the recent decision of Parliament to ratify these undertakings or cease our opposition to them. We believe that we speak for an increasing number of thoughtful people in this country as well as in France and Germany.

We believe that a peaceful solution of the German problem is possible: we sincerely hope that the decision of Parliament will not prejudice further the possibility of a meeting of the four Powers and the reaching of such a solution along the lines of the holding of free elections for an all-German Government and the conclusion of a peace treaty which would guarantee the

(Continued on page six)

MAGISTRATES REFUSE TO ORDER 'MEDICAL' FOR CO

THE St. Albans magistrates have refused to make an order for a conscientious objector to be medically examined for the Forces.

John M. V. White of Stevenage appeared before the Bench on September 11 charged with failing to comply with a notice to submit to medical examination. He had previously been fined £6 and £22, with £3 3s. costs on each occasion, and this was his third prosecution.

After Mr. A. C. Dollimore (for the Ministry of Labour) had mentioned the two previous prosecutions, Mr. V. Gerald Hines, Counsel, instructed by Denis Hayes, said that although he could not question the decisions of the local and appellate tribunals in refusing John White registration as a CO, he submitted that his actions showed deep sincerity and complete firmness of purpose; he invited the Bench to have this in mind in deciding whether or not to order White to be medically examined.

After conferring with his colleagues, the Chairman, Mr. W. Bird, said: "There will be a fine of £3 with £3 3s. costs."

Mr. Hines: Does that mean you do not propose to make an order for White to be examined?

Chairman: Yes.

(Common sense and COs—page 2)

A PEACE MESSAGE FOR HELSINKI



"Who is she?" Thousands of people in Helsinki for the Olympic Games asked this question as Barbara Rotbraut-Pleyer ran to the Tribune on the day the Games

were opened. In Finland and Sweden the incident is still a topic of discussion, says Charles Marland on page four.

Forty back 'Peace now' meeting

Sponsored by forty people, a meeting calling for an immediate armistice in Korea is to be held at Ilford Friends Meeting House on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 7.45. Two Quakers, John Hoyland and Horace Holder, will be the speakers.

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N4
STAmford Hill 2262 (three lines)

19th September, 1952.

WAR, CONSCIENCE AND COWARDICE

IF a history of the present era ever comes to be written it is likely to be described as the era of evasion.

Whether the present generation is likely to be followed by a posterity that will be concerned with such things as history depends on whether we can cease that mental habit of evasion in time.

When the first atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki the people of the world were aghast and were ready to jump to the conclusion that at last war really had become too terrible to be waged and that a way to peace would now inevitably be found.

This mood was a very brief one, however, and immediately the technicians of war began constructing mental barriers that would obscure the realities for the general public.

This is not a difficult task. Men and women have a natural desire not to face in their minds the reality of atomic warfare and almost any absurdity is accepted with eagerness as providing a degree of reassurance, from Sir John Anderson's preposterous commendation of brown paper as a protection to Mr. G. Stroud Osbourn's fantasies in Hampstead about which we wrote a fortnight ago.

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What is being evaded even more completely, however, is the moral issue.

The issue of man's conscience in relation to war has completely changed since the British Government sought to meet it in World War I by provisions for conscientious objection in the Military Service Acts.

The question that faces a man today is not whether there are circumstances in which he should be willing to fight, but whether there are circumstances in which he will be willing to inflict wholesale and cruel death on unarmed men and women and children.

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That question presented itself in such terrible terms at Hiroshima that one would have thought it would have been impossible to evade it. We have, however, succeeded in doing so for some seven years, and the prospect that the issue will ever be seriously faced becomes less and less likely.

We treat the matter as if it has been dropped into the past, the responsibility being borne by Mr. Roosevelt, now dead, and the young airman whose hand actually released the horror, and who has withdrawn from the life of the world, having "lost his inner peace."

The matter has not dropped into the past even in that sense. There are many people remaining, who are facing or evading in their consciences the fact that they have a primary responsibility for what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Presumably all the Allied Cabinets were consulted when the use of the atom bomb was decided upon, including the Russian and our own.

It may be painful for the men who gave their consent to have their minds turned to what they did then, but the world's moral worth turns on this issue being frankly faced.

It is essential that the moral implications of atomic bombing shall be at least as thoroughly examined as the technical requirements of what is described as defence.

★

In the early years after World War II it was possible to assume that the moral issue would arise only in the course of a new world war, that for more limited imperialistic or "policing" undertakings atom bombing would be unnecessarily destructive.

The same issue arises now, however, without recourse to atom bombing. When we can read accounts of the effects of the use of napalm as described by Reginald Thompson, René Cutforth, and by the groups of scientists whose pamphlet is described on page one we know that the same issue arises today in any war.

The question that men and women have to answer today is not whether circumstances may arise in which it is legitimate to take human life, but whether there are any circumstances that can possibly warrant men doing the things that are done by means of napalm and were done by means of the atom bomb.

The word "defence" is a poltroon's justification. One's life is a good thing to save if it can be lived out on terms that make it worth having.

A man who is willing to do the kind of things that we now know will happen in war as a means of preserving his life, to live it through carrying the stain and degradation of the horror he has perpetrated is either a worthless brute or he is a coward.

And what applies to men applies also to nations.

Mr. Stevenson and the Chinese Government

EITHER Mr. Stevenson's mind has begun to move regarding the relationship of the U.S. to China or he is feeling it desirable to do some rather careful tight-rope walking in the course of the election campaign.

In the course of a Press "quiz" issued before he accepted presidential nomination he made the downright statement that he was opposed to the admission of "Red China" into the United Nations.

He went on: "I do not see why this government should enlarge the sphere of operation of any other government which has waged, and is waging, war against it and against the United Nations in defiance of all that the United Nations stands for."

Asked whether there might be circumstances in which the U.S. may have to "go it alone" he replied "I would not as a matter of principle require allies as a condition precedent to action by this country."

Answering Press questions at a luncheon last week however he said it would be impossible for him to speculate now, in view of the uncertainty of the circumstances, on the question of recognising the Peking government as the *de facto* government of China.

"On the other hand," he said, "I point out to you that once we had resolved our difficulties in the last and previous wars, notably in the case of Italy, we recognised them rapidly."

Koje: A full investigation needed

WE have now seen a copy of the speech made by Dr. Su Ching Kuan at the 18th Conference of the International Red Cross at Toronto on July 30.

Much of it is a general indictment of American methods of warfare in Korea, which—as in the use of the napalm bomb and the wanton destruction of the civilian population of cities—have aroused widespread horror and condemnation.

It also repeats the charges of bacteriological warfare.

What is new in it is the description of measures taken to induce prisoners in Kojé to declare their unwillingness to return. The statement avoids any reference to the charges made from the American side that

BEHIND THE NEWS

Communist prisoners have killed scores of non-Communist fellow prisoners. Whether he regards these charges as true or not the Chinese representative ought to have realised that he would be strengthening the charges that he in his turn makes, if he were to deal with them.

It is so clearly desirable that there shall be a thorough investigation of the events on Kojé that we feel we must draw attention to Dr. Su Ching Kuan's allegations.

He says that agents working for Chiang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee had been

NO COMMENT

A PRETTY Chinese girl, 24-year-old Lee Ten-tai, was sentenced to death at Ipoh, Malaya, yesterday for possessing a hand-grenade. She will appeal.

A month ago a jury of Indians and Chinese found Lee not guilty. The judge disagreed and ordered a retrial. Yesterday's jury—a white man and a Chinese—were divided. The judge agreed with the juror who found Lee guilty.

—News Chronicle, Sept. 11, 1952.

placed in most of the PoW company formations.

This may merely be a biased description of non-Communist prisoners or it may be the truth. We do not know of course; it is one of the things that needs investigation.

The agents, the Chinese spokesman alleges, had forced prisoners of war to tattoo themselves with words hostile to the Chinese Government ("words disgracing their Motherland").

False petitions had been manufactured to indicate the unwillingness of prisoners to return. Those refusing to endorse these petitions had been beaten and after the prisoners had been wounded or had fainted blood mark fingerprints from them would be attached to the petitions or they would be forcibly tattooed.

South African resistance looks ahead

By O. CALDECOTT

THE long-term importance of the passive resistance movement is very great—that much is clear from last week's reports from the Union.

In a speech in Cape Town, Mr. Joseph Nkomo, secretary of the African National Congress, emphasised the resisters' demand for full and equal franchise and declared that the struggle would "last a long time."

He said that there were thousands of resisters waiting to go into action, and the campaign would be linked up with general strikes and a refusal to pay taxes.

This possibility was also mentioned by a recently-returned visitor to South Africa, Mr. Tom Wardle. His view, arrived at after four years' residence in the major cities of the Union and close association with Non-European leaders such as Manilal Gandhi, was that there is great solidarity and spontaneous enthusiasm among the Africans who would willingly meet "stern" measures on the part of the Government with determination and a far-reaching extension of the resistance.

From the Government side have come further threats and expressions of ill-will. The Minister of Labour, Mr. Ben Schoeman, said: "We shall stamp out (the passive resistance) movement." And the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, declared: "We cannot deal with people who are busy breaking the law."

The Times correspondent commenting on these statements says: "Those who have made a close study of the campaign believe that (the use of police action to suppress it) will help it to spread." He predicts that the "moderates" will lose control and the "extremists" take over.

This, too, is foreshadowed by Mr. Wardle who believes that these "moderates" are being "sold down the river" by the Communists who, in their turn, he adds, may eventually be ousted from leadership by the Non-European nationalists. Against this, of course, must be set the possibility that from the African and Indian people—the rank and file—may yet emerge forces of leadership which could lead the movement (and South Africa) towards freedom and racial peace.

The election front

On the election front, a remarkable despatch in the Daily Telegraph (Sept. 12) states that there is an unexpected hostility among immigrants who become eligible for citizenship rights to accept—or request—a change in status. So far only three out of the 20,000 who became eligible recently have applied for registration as South Africans. The correspondent suggests possible reasons for this. He points out that the immigrants fear that racial conflict and a uni-lingual Nationalist republic (in which they would be second-class citizens) are inevitable, and they resent the power held

by the Minister of the Interior to refuse registration and the payment of the exorbitant fee (£6) demanded under the Citizenship Act.

If this report is true, the United Party opposition may well discover that its own inadequacy as a barrier to Nationalist ambitions has resulted in most immigrants preferring the status of "alien" (with its attendant rights and safeguards) to that of "South African," for the advantages of citizenship are outweighed by being at the mercy of the uncontrollable and conflicting forces in an unstable and psychotic society.

Nor can the United Party look with equanimity on the gathering tide facing South Africa at UN. In a situation in which world public opinion—led by India, Burma and other Asiatic powers and encouraged by democratic opinion everywhere—is solidly against the Union on all issues (South-West Africa, the Protectorates, apartheid), the United Party's muddled and dubious internationalism is powerless against the injured-innocence of Nationalist isolationism.

Ban on candidate

The Times (Sept. 13) reports that the Minister of Justice has issued an order under the Suppression of Communism Act forbidding one of the candidates in the forthcoming election for a Native Representative in Parliament from seeking election. The candidate, Mr. Brian Bunting, a former colleague in the now banned Communist Party of Mr. Sam Kahn's (whose seat in the House has fallen vacant due to his being expelled for being a Communist), is, however, expected to be "elected." Although he will not be able to seek votes, it is likely that, in protest against the expulsion of their previous MP and because the Cape Africans support the resistance campaign and the demand for the franchise, Mr. Bunting will receive the votes whether he asks for them or not.

The Times of the same date reports that Mr. Solly Sachs, the Trade Unionist, who was appealing against being compelled under the "Anti-Communist Act" to resign from the secretaryship of Garment Workers' Union, has lost his case in the Appellate Division. Mr. Sachs' appeal against the ban preventing him from attending certain meetings was also dismissed.

Finally, The Times reports that fifteen African women in Odendaalsrus have been found guilty of public violence. They were involved in a riot there on June 18 when an attempt was made to impose service contracts (passes) on women. The women received three months' hard labour plus two months suspended. During the riots a native policeman was shot dead and municipal officials stoned.

Passes in South Africa—a major cause of discontent—have hitherto been carried almost solely by men.

Uncooperative democracy

IN Peace News for August 8 we published an account of the case made by the representatives of the Meru people in Tanganyika against the government action in evicting them from their tribal lands.

The matter is likely to come before the United Nations Fourth Committee, and then the General Assembly; the Press, which, with the exception of ourselves, completely ignored the matter at the time when the Wameru representatives were presenting their case to the Trusteeship Council, is now paying some attention.

The case as stated by the authorities and set out in the Manchester Guardian and The Times is not unimpressive, but there is a very important omission in the facts recorded by both these newspapers.

This is that the resolution on the subject passed by the Trusteeship Council which, while accepting the case of the authorities, that the scheme would be of benefit to the tribe, nevertheless regretted that force had been used in the evictions and recommended that in future no land in Tanganyika should be alienated without the clearly expressed consent of the indigenous inhabitants concerned.

This concluding comment was described by the New York Herald Tribune as being in the strongest terms ever used to rebuke an administering authority. The case of the government is that it is doing these people good against their will, a very undesirable doctrine to be propounded by a Democracy, particularly when other interests will be served by the undesired benefits to be forced on the people most concerned.

This aspect of the matter is emphasised by a comment made in the course of a leader in The Times:

"In 1949 it was decided to make the move, but by this time difficulties had arisen among the Wameru. Previously the tribe had been ruled by a chief who had been co-operative, but his Council was now democratised and opposed the move. In a larger field, this is precisely the kind of trouble the French have met in Tunisia."

Common sense and COS

FOR the first time for more than four years, a Court has decided not to exercise its power to order a CO to submit to medical examination for service in the Forces, and thus compel him—if he is true to his professions—to disobey the order and make himself liable to a penalty of 12 months' imprisonment and £50 fine.

This creditable decision of the St. Albans magistrates (reported on page one) provides some grounds for hoping that other Benches will adopt the common-sense solution when young men are repeatedly brought before them for what are, technically, separate offences, but which arise from the simple refusal to fight.

It is time that the courts inquired into the effect of the punishments they impose. They would find that very few men submit to examination when they are first ordered to do so, but none submit on the second and third occasions.

A court order is then simply an invitation to a young man to break the law and flout the court's authority, so that a further penalty can be imposed. The only conceivable purpose is to build up a total penalty which the Ministry of Labour regards (to use Sir Walter Monckton's word) as "enough": a suitable cash equivalent to conscription.

Coupled with the recent decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal to quash the Borstal sentence imposed on Laurence Robinson and substitute four months' imprisonment (three months being the minimum sentence which gives the right to a review tribunal), this precedent should encourage other courts to reconsider their practice of treating war-resisters as criminals.

One-tenth of an A-bomb

IN a fire-fighting exercise held in Sheffield last weekend, it was assumed that the centre of the city had been struck by one-tenth of an atomic bomb. To provide more realism, we are told, smoke bombs were exploded.

Reinforcements were called in from Leeds, Bradford, Barnsley, Doncaster, York, Halifax, Hull, Huddersfield, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Rutland, Lincolnshire, and the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire to deal with the "fires" which had occurred, which included 370 near the canal wharf and railway goods depot.

If one-tenth of an atomic bomb started hundreds of fires, a whole bomb would presumably start thousands—or one vast conflagration—which would call for the combined resources of all the fire-brigades within reach. They, however, might already be occupied with bombs dropped in their own area.

An exercise such as this should be sufficient to explode the Home Office's assertion that with properly organised civil defence services much can be done to mitigate the effects of atomic attack.

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THE DANGERS OF DETACHMENT

By Cyril Hughes

THERE is a famous story about an incautious Southerner who ventured to attend a Lancashire and Yorkshire cricket match one Bank Holiday.

An argument developed between two ardent supporters of the rival teams. One averred that the rate of Lancashire's scoring proved that their bats must be too heavy to lift. The other retorted that batsmen could only reasonably be expected to hit bowling that landed within six feet or so of the pitch, and that contemptuous inactivity was the only possible response to the sort of stuff the Yorkshire bowlers were sending down. The Southerner intervened to suggest that both views were a little exaggerated, and that he, personally, was finding the game quite interesting. There was a stony silence.

"That's from Yorkshire?" asked the first spectator at last.

"No," said the Southerner.

"From Lancashire, then?" asked the second.

"No."

"Then, mind tha own b—— business," advised both partisans together.

*

THIS story illustrates a human characteristic that is very evident today—the resentment that anyone involved in a given situation feels towards those not so involved.

The partisan resents the detached observer much more than he resents his enemy of the moment.

If one of the Lancashire batsmen in that game had so far forgotten the proprieties of a Roses match as to smite a vulgar six into the crowd and the ball had landed on the Southerner's head, the Yorkshire spectator would have been as delighted as his Lancashire neighbour.

It is a well recorded fact of natural history that two Irishmen, indulging in the national pastime of brawling, will invariably join forces and set upon anyone who attempts to separate them.

The loudest yell of delight we have ever heard in a football arena occurred when the harmless, necessary referee stopped a full-blooded defensive clearance with the point of his chin, and tottered into temporary unconsciousness. And the jilted lover, harsh as may be his feelings towards his successful rival, reserves his real hatred for the confirmed bachelor who points out to him how lucky he is to have escaped.

*

WHEN Huxley urged upon us the virtues of non-attachment, he omitted to warn us of the fury of the still-attached against the exasperatingly unimplicated.

This is the real explanation of the resentment which society still feels towards the conscientious objector.

Very few people in an age of total war still seriously equate refusal to join the forces with cowardice. But very many people still regard it as "unfair" or "not right" that A should be in uniform while B "gets away with it."

The fact that A has not chosen to refuse to surrender his human rights, while B has, is irrelevant.

The popular conception of democracy decrees that all should be treated alike, and the democrats are worried, not by the degradation of A, as they should be, but by the immunity of B.

It is an example of uniformity masquerading as democracy which, strangely, does not seem to have come to the notice of the Tory vigilantes.

*

THEN, take the case of Sweden. This unfortunate country has for many years attempted to evade its obligations as a member of the comity of civilised nations by applying non-attachment to international affairs. She has, in fact, adopted a foreign policy of neutrality, which in certain quarters is an even ruder word than peace.

Twice in this century the freedom-loving nations of Europe have fought and suffered in terrible wars to preserve freedom, democracy and the right to conscript boys for Korea. Twice Sweden has stood aside and let others fight her battles for her. Yet she has not hesitated to claim and enjoy those benefits which only the shedding of blood—other people's blood—could obtain.

We are, you will observe, not unfamiliar with newspaper editorials. Nevertheless, we must confess that it is extremely difficult to understand how Sweden can still wish to continue her policy of neutrality, in view of the manifest benefits which all the nations engaged in it derived from the last war. Sweden may point to the preservation of her towns and the lives of her people, the maintenance of her standard of living and way of life; but these are small things to set beside the glorious achieve-

ments of the victorious democracies—the final destruction of German militarism, the security, the better ration, the picturesque ruins.

The explanation of Sweden's obstinate adherence to the cowardly policy of neutrality must be found in a moral waywardness only to be expected of a people who drink strong spirits and bathe without even Bikinis.

*

BUT Sweden was recently taught a lesson. One of her aircraft was shot down by the Russians. It is not very clear how large an International Incident this really was, but certain sections of the British Press had a day out as a result of it.

The Russian bullets could not have been more pointed than the British editorials which so obviously delighted in the discomfiture of a nation which thought it could have peace without fighting for it. The cricket ball really had hit the neutral spectator on the head.

Typical of the comments was this from our favourite provincial paper, The Liverpool Echo:

"This is a difficult period for neutrals who want to make the best of all possible worlds. The fact that they desire peace does not differentiate them from the majority of mankind, but they live in hope that they can obtain peace and freedom on easier terms than their neighbours who have been compelled to fight for both."

This is a good example of the "I-gotta-do-it-why-shouldn't-he" attitude.

Of course, it may be suggested that Sweden would rather lose one plane in an "incident" than ten thousand in a war; or even that, if she had dispensed altogether with warplanes, even the incident would not have occurred.

Sweden, though a neutral spectator, still has armaments and is prepared to participate in certain circumstances. She is not yet, unfortunately, detached, but only semi-detached, like those who Live in Sin.

DID YOU KNOW?—

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"A supremely important and timely work,"

writes ROBERT GREACEN in this review of

A new novel by Alex Comfort

"CERTAINLY it is propaganda," says Alex Comfort of his new novel "but not for either of the present combatants. Once we see the world in terms of real people, we cease to be hysterical about it." Unlike most novels written to a thesis, real, blood-and-flesh people walk through the pages of "A Giant's Strength."

A friend of mine asked, hearing in advance that the setting of the novel would be largely in the Turkestan desert—which for the purposes of fiction Dr. Comfort has boldly moved 100 miles Eastwards, Stakhanovite writer and scientist that he is!—"But has he ever been to Russia?" The answer is "No": and yet how like Russians, or at least like Russians as seen in their own literature, these characters are.

Hedler, a German mathematician, is a veritable genius with calculating machines; he knows all the formulae involving x and y, but for long he has been confused in his own nature. He hides behind a terrifying talent that is very saleable. The story of his escapes from a Russian institute of scientific studies in Tashkent—where he has been at work since he got out of the U.S. Zone of Germany in 1947—and its consequences for a group of Russians binds the novel together.

The struggle

This Hedler, with whom his friend, the Russian, Shemirin, stands in such contrast, draws on a built-in motive power, to use Dr. Comfort's excellent phrase. Shemirin, on the other hand found while a war-time prisoner in Germany that he had to rely for inner assurance on the long-distance cables that stretched between him and his own people. Good Communist that Shemirin is, he tries to win Hedler for the new society of the USSR; but he fails.

Old Anosov, guide on a scientific expedition in the desert that finally comes to grief, anarchist and humanist, argues out the whole business of ends and means, war and peace with Shemirin. Anosov has seen the inside of a few prisons for having the wrong thoughts but the police allow him to work in the desert, feeling that there at least he will do no mischief. Shemirin, a bit angry, rounds on the old man:

"What's wrong with our society that it isn't good enough for you?"

And Anosov's answer:

"Simply that men are not tools, however nice the work is going to look when it's finished. And that the tools can do better work by themselves. And that the Revolution is a revolution for men, and when it asks me to do anything which

* "A Giant's Strength," Routledge, 10s. 6d.

INCITEMENT

WE have been much encouraged by the response to the previous Peace Pledge Union appeal in Peace News, and I want to thank all those who have helped to raise the total to date by £44 in the last fortnight, as also those who have sent in suggestions which I hope to be able to use in due course.

Incitement to disaffection is not an unknown phrase, but there is surely one form of disaffection which is commendable—discontent at what is wrong or unsatisfactory. I want to make all readers of Peace News as discontented as possible at the position of PPU Headquarters Fund until each has done something to improve it.

One of our generous members, who always prefers to remain anonymous, is aiding and abetting incitement to such disaffection by promising that if PPU Headquarters Fund reaches £900 by Dec 31 he will give the last £100 to bring the Fund up to our aim of £1,000.

That is a grand offer for which we shall all be grateful, but we can show our gratitude best by helping to make certain that he has to part with that £100!

From now on every penny you give to the PPU Headquarters Fund will have more than its face value, because it will be helping to add £100. Can I incite any other reader to make a similar promise? And if £100 sounds rather a lot to you, what about a promise of £50 or £25 or £10 or £5 if so many others will promise a similar amount?

In any case I feel sure that we shall all be incited, both by the response since the last appeal and by this offer, to make a special effort. Our aim has been brought much nearer realisation. We are £44 further on and we have the final £100 promised, so now it is up to YOU.

STUART MORRIS,
General Secretary.

Total received to date: £326.

Our aim for 1952: £1,000.

Donations to the Peace Pledge Union should be sent marked "Headquarters Fund," to the PPU Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

forgets that a man is a man it defeats itself."

Only a scientist could have designed a novel like this one; only a poet could have given it atmosphere and colour, and kept it free of unnecessary technicalities. Only a man who had thought deeply and sharply about our present nightmare could have so well pointed the crazy paradox: hardly anyone in Russia or elsewhere wants another war and yet that is precisely what the two blocs are frantically preparing for.

Don't think that "A Giant's Strength" is just another dismal sermon, for as a novel it has energy, pace and excitement. You really do want to know what happens next. Personally, I feel it is a supremely important and timely work; and it would be surprising if it does not make a number of its readers promise, as Hedler does—"If war comes, I'll have nothing whatever to do with it."

NEW CHINA

By Edith Adlam

BIBLE-SLINGERS, Communist-Manifesto-slingers and a host of others may be written of in terms of contempt but the majority of them will have sincerely and honestly "slung" ideas with the hope of helping humanity.

If W. G. Burchett had recognised this, his book "China's Feet Unbound" would have been more illuminating. His title draws us at once, but there is no recognition in his book of the widely known fact that it was a "Bible-slinger" who took the lead in exposing the evil and in focussing the sympathy of the Christian world upon it so that foot-binding in China became illegal.

We are grateful to the author for his picture of a well-governed and happy China. Many who have devoted the best part of their lives to China, who read and write the language, and the majority of those foreigners who have lived in the Treaty Ports and Hongkong will rejoice that long-overdue reforms have been brought about, that the standard of living for the peasant has been raised, that enthusiastic hope has taken the place of dull despair in the hearts of the masses. Such immense changes will have involved much suffering, perforce, but we are left with a picture showing no shadows.

Flood control

The author has been highly privileged to witness the actual work in progress on the immense irrigation and flood prevention scheme which we know from other sources has been successfully completed in the Huai River basin.

That it was carried through so quickly, with such happy co-operation on the part of all gives us some idea of the mighty changes which have taken place.

After the terrible years of war devastation, and in spite of major domestic and foreign troubles, this achievement is all the more praiseworthy. And it would lose nothing, surely, if the League of Nations Yangtze Conservancy work after the terrible flood of 1932 were just mentioned?

The stories recounted in this book of slave girls, of the maltreatment of wives and concubines, of terrible tortures endured at the hands of the Japanese military, suffer from the marks of the interpreter. Even so, they should be read, for they show how inevitable the revolution was.

The author's short experience of life in China and the pressure of events will account for much that is lacking in his understanding. One will not expect to find evidence of careful, objective study of history. Our great-grandfathers were blame-worthy, perhaps we in this generation are as guilty as any of crimes against China. But sweeping condemnation of all British traders and officials is not borne out by evidence.

Good work of the past

The bitter criticism of America which runs through the book is understandable. The repudiation of the corrupt Chiang-Kai-Shek regime was almost complete. The masses suffered under his dictatorship perhaps more than under the Japanese military. So one is not surprised that, in trying to record the reactions and thoughts of Chinese today this hatred of "American Aggression" must constantly be shown.

Would it not be helpful to readers, however, to show something of better days, of years of devoted work given by medical missionaries, of the building up of great medical schools and colleges? We live in a time when the work of centuries can be wiped out in a couple of minutes. Let us remember some of the good work of the past while rejoicing with all our hearts that China, as the author shows us, is moving towards healthier and happier days.

Mr. Burchett describes for us some of the momentous changes taking place in China. As he writes "The whole of humanity cannot but be affected by these changes." This slim volume will serve to arouse interest in the New China of which many are longing to hear more.

* By W. G. Burchett. Lawrence and Wishart 5s.

How to concede gracefully!

A CONFESSION of failure to get an armistice in Korea through the military commanders there has led to a decision to transfer the problem to the diplomats at the United Nations.

"Twice the United States has rebuffed such an effort, instigated by Russia, to place the question before the Security Council. But now President Truman and Secretary of State Acheson, with the full agreement of Great Britain, are going to try a debate in the UN Assembly.

"Since the British all along have been willing to end the Korean affair at almost any price and with almost any kind of compromise, it was not difficult to get London to go along—and it may be that the idea of taking the matter to the UN had some British inspiration. In any event, the Communists are getting what they all along have wanted—a chance to air the argument about Korea before the whole world and thus give it a propaganda twist it does not have through the semi-secrecy that prevails at the Panmunjom talks.

"It does look as if the United States and Great Britain are taking a big risk in admitting to the whole world that the military commanders in Korea have been unable to obtain through military pressure a simple 'cease-fire' agreement or armistice and that the whole complicated negotiation has to be turned over to a debating society to gabble about..."—David Lawrence in the New York Herald Tribune, Sept. 9, 1952.

YHA pioneer for important Quaker post in India

PN REPORTER

THE man who pioneered the Youth Hostels Association, E. St. John Catchpool, is to take charge of the Friends' Centre in Delhi. He was in India last year building up a YHA in that country.

He will be only one of a party of sixteen Quakers sailing this month to reinforce Quaker work in India, reports The Friend.

Two conscientious objectors are going out there on alternative service: Michael Littleboy has obtained leave from the tribunal to take up work with the Friends Service Council as an alternative to military service. He will also spend a few months working with International Voluntary Service for Peace in India or Pakistan.

Another CO, Dr. Richard Fox, is going out with his wife and fifteen-month-old son William to the Friends Hospital at Itarsi to assist the Indian doctor there, Mrs. Fox will also be a welcome addition to the workers at Itarsi—she is a trained nurse.

Horace Alexander, great friend of Mahatma Gandhi, who perhaps more than any other Englishman helped to pave the road to India's freedom, is also returning for a further 18 months service. The Indian Communist Party rate him as a British spy and in their press he comes in for some of the invective which the Daily Worker in this country reserves for Krupp and the NATO hierarchy.

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Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson M.P.

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Rt. Hon. Clement Davies, QC, MP,
Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, MP.
LORD BOYD ORR
PETER USTINOV
Henry Osborne, MP.
Congressman Adam C. Powell
(USA)
Chair: Gilbert McAllister

KINGSWAY HALL

Thursday, Sept. 25 6.45 p.m.

Reserved Seats 2s. 6d. Free Seats. Reserved Area 1s.

Tickets from: Parliamentary Group for World Government 20, Buckingham Street, W.C.2.

In Sweden and Finland they are still talking about

THAT OLYMPIC INCIDENT

From CHARLES MARLAND

HELSINKI.

I SHOULD like to tell the story of a brave sportswoman, who surely deserved an Olympic medal for her phenomenal performance of endurance, courage and faith—in the cause of peace.

The brilliant opening ceremony of the Olympic Games at Helsinki, which I witnessed, started with a loud fanfare of trumpets; then a procession of some of the competitors, in national groups, carried their national flags to the Tribune.

Next Paavo Nurmi, greatly-admired Finnish sportsman, sped round the course with the Olympic torch, from which a flame was lit both on the ground and at the top of a 200-ft. tower, and blazed, day and night, throughout the games.

President Paasikivi declared the XVth Olympiad duly open, the Finnish Choir sang a well-known national song, and the Archbishop of Finland was about to read in Latin the prayer printed in the programme.

That this great, world-wide event might be effective in uniting all the nations of the earth in peace, understanding and good will.

It was at this moment that Miss Barbara Rotbraut-Pleyer unexpectedly appeared, bearing a message with that very spirit and purpose. Clad in white robes which flowed in the wind, she paced round the course, mounted the Tribune, and began to read her message—subsequently revealed to be a reasoned appeal for real and sincere peace-planning.

Sent back to Germany

Some officials attempted to force the "angel" away, but she would not yield to force. When the Olympic Committee President offered his arm, she responded and went with him. The police felt obliged to send her back to her home in Göttingen, Germany.

"Who is she?" people asked. Previously unknown, she is now, I am told, quite a heroine in Germany and has received a good hearing at many public meetings. She speaks for the youth of Germany to the whole world: We do not want to prepare for war again.

She is a student of law and a linguist, 23 years of age, sensitive, intuitive, spiritual. When she was ten, she heard an inward voice, like Joan of Arc. While still a child, she wanted to go to Hitler, to plead with him, in the name of the children of Germany, to do what he could for peace.

The adverse comments in the Finnish press about her Olympic act of fidelity to conscience led a Quaker in Helsinki to defend Barbara as an idealist who fervently believes in her cause. Thenceforward, a lively newspaper correspondence continued in Finland.

The correspondence has also spread to Sweden. One weekly newspaper there printed a page of ironic humour which indicated, by and large, that the majority of people thought that Barbara Rotbraut-Pleyer was not a fanatic, but one of those of whom it has been said "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

Aga Khan on Racial Unity Council

RACIAL Unity, formed early this year with the object of combating racial discrimination, has announced the membership if its council for the United Kingdom.

The thirty-one members, of whom thirteen are executive members, include H.H. The Aga Khan, Lord Noel Buxton, Miss Muriel Lester, The Rev. George MacLeod, Canon C. E. Raven James Griffiths, MP, Fenner Brockway, MP, Miss Mary Attlee, Canon L. John Collins, John P. Fletcher, and Aitchan Wu.

The general public have been invited to join the organisation as Associate Members, paying a minimum subscription of 5s. a year.

Racial Unity concerns itself not only with propaganda but also with practical welfare work, trying to find means of employment for Africans, Indians and Chinese who are living in this country, and giving advice on various lawsuits arising from racial discrimination.

Its office is at 32 Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. Local groups have already been formed in Hampstead and Westminster, and it is hoped that others will follow.

Britain's unclaimed acres

EIGHTY-THOUSAND acres of fertile land could be reclaimed from the sea at points around the coast of Britain. The money required, roughly estimated at £8m. cannot be found however, although Britain is spending £1,000m. on armaments this year.

The armed forces, building and coal-mining account for a loss to agriculture of 50,000 acres a year.



The President of the Olympic Committee offers his arm to Barbara Rotbraut-Pleyer as she descends from the Tribune at Helsinki.

Parliamentary Conference on World Government

THE Second London Parliamentary Conference on World Government is to be held at Bedford College during the coming week. It will be attended by over 100 parliamentarians and other leaders of thought from all parts of the world.

Last year's conference unanimously passed two resolutions on the powers and principles of a World Government and the need for a World Authority to develop economic resources for the benefit of mankind as a whole. This year the conference is to decide on a political programme or strategy to carry these principles into effect.

On Thursday evening a public meeting announced elsewhere in this issue, will be held at the Kingsway Hall.

Among pacifists who have accepted invitations are Emrys Hughes, MP; Canon Collins and Professor Hans Thirring the Austrian atomic scientist who has refused to co-operate in the manufacture of weapons.

Briefly—from overseas

Svenska Världsfredsmission (The Swedish Christian pacifist organisation) has just issued its annual report for 1951-52. Membership has reached 2,250, and the circulation of its monthly paper from 2,300 to 3,500 copies. Action on behalf of COs has been intensified.

Annual congress of the Scandinavian Peace Association, held this year in Sweden with participants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, urged that civilians should be appointed to take over from the military in an effort to break the deadlock in the Korean peace negotiations. A committee was set up to investigate technical possibilities for establishing an international "rescue group."

Danish pacifists have protested to Danish Foreign Minister regarding foreign troops stationed in Denmark.

At this year's call-up for military service in Denmark approximately 400 men registered as COs; although the same number as last year, it represents, however, 100 per cent increase on the previous year.

Wants UN support for tax refusal

FYKE Farmer, an attorney of Nashville, Tennessee, USA, who gave up his law practice in 1946 to campaign for World Government, is trying to get the UN General Assembly to consider an individual petition he has drawn up.

In it, he seeks to establish that, just as the Nazi leaders were tried at Nuremberg for "the planning, preparation, initiation or waging of war of aggression or war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances," so those who are preparing or waging war today should be tried by international criminal courts.

Violation of UN Charter

Fyke Farmer maintains that the determination of the United States to maintain the greatest armed strength in the world is a violation of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, the Atlantic Charter, the principles of international law recognised by the Nuremberg Court, and the charter of the UN.

He goes on to say that he personally has decided, so far as possible, to refrain from acts which will render him guilty of complicity in the crime of war making and planning, and has therefore refused to pay taxes which will be used to finance the preparation of war. He asks the support of the General Assembly for this action.

Fyke Farmer sent the petition to Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of UN, with a request that it be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly.

He received a reply from Mr. Lie's assistant, stating that only governments, and not individuals, could petition the Assembly, but that his petition would be sent to the Human Rights Commission. This Commission, however, has no power to take action on any communications, pending the adoption of an international covenant on Human Rights.

Mr. Farmer has also approached Mr. Truman, asking him to put the petition before the United Nations Assembly as head of the US Government, but has received no reply.

Forwarding news of his campaign to Peace News, Fyke Farmer writes: "Please help me. Ask your readers each to write to Trygve Lie (Lake Success, New York) and their government."

"World ready for a great advance"

AT a well attended meeting of the Peace Fellowship at Kingsway Hall recently, Pastor W. C. Wright, MA, of Ealing, gave an interesting address on the principles underlying World Government. Mr. H. Rutland presided and a resolution was passed unanimously which declared:

"We believe that only a system of World Government will ensure law and order between States and a fair distribution of natural resources. We therefore pledge ourselves to support by our influence and our votes all proposals which in our personal judgment tend towards ultimate World Government."

"We realise that the final goal is not immediately attainable in a fully democratic and representative sense, but are confident that the world is now ready for a great advance in this direction, and that such an advance is not only possible but is immediately necessary if mankind is to control events and not be destroyed by them."

"We invite support in this effort to create and express world wide demand for ultimate World Government."

TO REPORT FOR PN AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GERALD BAILEY, former Director of the National Peace Council and leader of the Quaker Mission to Moscow, will be writing for Peace News on the proceedings of the United Nations Assembly which opens in New York on October 14.

He will be one of the international Quaker group which for the third time will be attending the proceedings as observers.

Other members of the group are: Clarence E. Pickett, Elmore Jackson and Cornelius Kruse for the USA; Agatha Harrison, Britain; Heberto Sein, Mexico, and Sigrid Lund, Norway.

Some of their most valuable work is done through informal meetings with statesmen from both East and West.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY of the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

'SPEAK BITTERNESS'

A story of China Old and New by ERIC PAICE

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Chinese Music and Costumes

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Speakers: STEPHEN SWINGLER, M.P. & BRITONS JUST BACK FROM CHINA

OCTOBER 1st, ST. PANCRAS TOWN HALL, 7.30

Tickets 1/-, 2/- and 3/6 from: Britain-China Friendship Association, 17 Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2 (AMB 1431/2). Stamped addressed envelope please.

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A NATION Dr. Malan ber 30 is to be in Hampstead and a poster 1 outside Africa

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TRIAL SUBSC
R Home or Abroa

Germans want more Peace News BUT FACE CURRENCY BAR

FRAU SCHUCHARDT of the Berlin Fellowship of Reconciliation group, in asking for a larger quota of Peace News, reports an increased demand for the paper, including requests from pacifist ministers in the Eastern Zone. Her group also supply a number of refugee camps and sympathisers in all parts of Berlin.

Peace News is sent free of charge to pacifist groups in Germany and a number of British readers pay into a special "German Account" for which they receive monthly invoices.

At present, however, less than 50 per cent. of the cost is being met by these gifts and more regular contributors to the "German Account" are needed. Various pacifist groups in Germany benefit from the sale of PN there. The cost of sending a dozen copies weekly from PN office to Germany is 2s. 6d.

Also needed are more readers willing to post on their own copies of PN, after they have read them, to overseas pacifists and sympathisers unable to subscribe. For the name and address of a would-be overseas reader, write to Peace News, 3, Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

They had a message for Labour

ABOUT 20 pacifists bearing posters with the simple message "End Conscription" reminded a Labour Party gathering at the Manchester Free Trade Hall on Saturday of the bright faith of many of its founders which has become tarnished with the passage of the years.

The paraders paced slowly up and down in front of the hall for an hour to some encouragement from the onlookers. One lady came up for a leaflet and wished them "good luck." Another delegate advised the leader in broad Lancashire: "You're going too fast for 'um." It was regretted that Mr. Attlee, who was to address the meeting inside, avoided the front door and missed the message.

Peace News was sold and suitable leaflets distributed to the delegates entering the hall.

This was the first poster parade in central Manchester since the early days of the last war, and the United Peace Fellowship hopes to organise a more ambitious effort in the near future.

Second Showing in Britain—Great New Chinese Film "SONS AND DAUGHTERS"

(English sub-titles) also
Beautiful new colour film "ALONG THE YANGTZE" Friday, Sept. 26, 7.30 p.m., ISLINGTON TOWN HALL
MRS. HEWLETT JOHNSON will be present
Tickets 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., available from the Britain-China Friendship Association, 17, Bishops Bridge Road, W.2. or at the door.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Militarism, united

FOR some time I have held the view that the organised hate campaigns and deliberate distortion of news, by all sides, before and during wartime, could not be carried on by genuine men however sincerely they believed in their cause.

If this is so war does not result so much from misguided policies nor from blind forces beyond human control, but is deliberately created by a minority of malevolent psychopaths.

The decision now to pay Krupps, the German armament manufacturer, £30,000,000 compensation and an income of over £1,000,000 a year surely strengthens the view that hostility between militarists is a facade put on for propaganda purposes. Does it not rather suggest that militarism is international, organised and united?

A decision on this point is vital if the struggle against war is to direct itself in the right channels.

JACK SUTHERLAND,

45, Gubyon Avenue,
Herne Hill, S.E.24.

Defence Without Arms

I GREATLY appreciate Hallam Tennyson's comments on my pamphlet (PN Aug 29). At the beginning of his article he poses a question:

"All very well to point to Gandhi's success in face to face contacts with the relatively humane British Raj, but what if his followers had to face a Panzer division, an atom bomb?"

I am aware that my little book does not fully answer this question. I can only plead over-condensation of a very large subject.

I think the answer is that Gandhi would have approached the potentates responsible for sending the atom bomb and the Panzer division before these were sent. He and his followers would have sat on the steps of the Nazi War Office and picketed the Nazi Headquarters till they were arrested or otherwise dealt with. Some Germans did make a stand. All honour to them!

Hallam Tennyson raises a further question here: Would Nazis have responded as the British Raj did? And there is little doubt about the answer to that.

The only people who do not respond to a strong expression of good will are decadent, sub-human people. Savages, children and even the higher animal will respond. But the Nazis taught their followers that to respond positively to good will was merely weakness, and so were responsible for a serious step back below the human level in their followers. With such people Gandhi's method fails. But I believe that martyrs seldom die in vain. The impact of their martyrdom reaches beyond their

persecutors to a world of men and women who feel and care deeply, and to posterity. I think that is the only possible answer.

It takes courage to respond positively to an expression of good will when those expressing it are disobeying the law you are going all out to enforce. Hats off every time to the British Raj who gave a sporting response to Gandhi and his followers!

DOROTHY GLAISTER.

From the 'Bristling Fortress'

PEACE NEWS has been criticised by some British readers for denouncing America's aggressive war policy. As an American citizen I should like to say that your paper is rendering valuable service to humanity in its impartial publication of vital world news.

Many citizens here refuse willingly to support the godless, plunging, military faction that dominates the country. There have been many instances of the subtle schemes to arouse "patriotism" among which the following may be mentioned:

As a prelude to worship, a radio announcement on a recent Sunday barked out the news that there is to be a new map of America—"Forever this Land!" Soil is to be gathered from the shrines of war, e.g. Bunker Hill, Concord, Valley Forge, etc., to compose the topographical map. This raises some questions. How do others see us in our bristling fortress?

Perhaps the Confederates will contribute their quota of the trodden earth from Atlanta to the Sea, while Mexico may be induced to bless some particles from the confiscated "great" south-western States, and the American "perimeter" might well be represented by some crimson dust from Hiroshima and Korea? What will Puerto Rico offer as a memento? And silt from the former "wind-swept prison camps of over 100,000 innocent people—"Assembly" and "Relocation Centres"?

Over it all may be sprinkled ashes from the blood of the indigenous people who were subjugated and slain to clear the ground for the establishment of this "Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave" while the underprivileged and imprisoned COs may stand at attention during the dedication?

Have we Americans passed the sentimental, adolescent stage? It may help us to silently weigh our virtues and our vices. Perhaps we have need to repent and make amends rather than to boast and be arrogant. Ah, yes, we should love America and all of God's earth and all of God's children of every race and creed.

Peace News helps us to see ourselves as others see us.

LOUIS OBED RENNE,

114, Cornell Road,
Menlo Park,
Calif., USA.

Support for Africans BRITISH PLANS

A NATIONAL day of protest against Dr. Malan's apartheid policy on September 30 is to be preceded by a public meeting in Hampstead on Thursday, September 25 and a poster parade and leaflet distribution outside Africa House on September 27.

The public meeting, in Rosslyn Hall, Willoughby Road, Hampstead, at 7.30 is sponsored by the World Citizens Council for Human Rights who have asked Miss Monica Whately, recently returned from S. Africa, to speak.

The poster parade on Saturday, September 27, will start from the north side of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church at 10.45 a.m. and will call for support for the imprisoned Africans.

The parade is being organised by the Non-Violent Resistance Group (formerly Operation Gandhi). Names of those wishing to carry posters should be sent to the Group at 79 Lordship Park, N.16.

The call for the Day of Protest on September 30 comes from the National Council for Civil Liberties.

They ask that letters and telegrams of protest be sent to South Africa House, London; and letters be sent to the Press.

Bedford and District Trades Council have passed a resolution in support of the Africans. It was moved by Arthur Robyns, a pacifist, who told the Council of the non-violent campaign being waged against unjust laws.

"ONE" WORLD

One World for August-September contains a report of an important speech on "Economic Relations of the US and Britain" made at the National Peace Council conference on Anglo-American Relations by the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, MP. It is obtainable from the National Peace Council, 144 Southampton Row, 5d. post free.

The Movement for a Pacifist Church of Christ and the PPU Pacifist Religious Fellowship will combine for a service conducted by Wallace Hancock at

THE WEIGH HOUSE

Binney Street (Opposite Selfridges) Oxford Street W.1

On Sunday, September 28 at 3.15 p.m.
Discourse: Sybil Morrison (Chairman PPU)
Discussion Light Refreshments

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS

Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., WCI

Notes for your Diary

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent in. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday morning.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address)—preferably in that order and style.

Sunday, September 21

HYDE PARK: 6 p.m. Speakers' Corner. Open-air mtg. Mona Bentin. PPU.

RUGBY: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Regent Place; public mtg. Reginald Reynolds on "Quakers and Peace." For.

WEST HUMBLE, NR. DORKING: 3 p.m. The Shippen, Pilgrims Way (Box Hill Stn. few minutes); Wilfred Wellock on "The Nature and Urgency of Constructive Peace Making"; Surrey Area PPU.

Monday, September 22

BELFAST: 7.45 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Frederick St.; Rev. Clifford Macquire on "Three Weeks in the Soviet Union." For.

Tuesday, September 23

ARMAGH: Rev. Clifford Macquire on "Visit to the USSR"; details from Rev. Harry Lamb, Lisnaddilly Rectory, Armagh. For.

COVENTRY: 7.30 p.m. Flinn Room, Warwick Rd Cong. Church; Reginald Reynolds on "Friends and Peace." For.

DOVER: 7.15 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Queen St.; Rev. R. C. Wood on "Christian Responsibility for Peace." For.

Wednesday, September 24

BATH: 7.30 p.m. 11 Grosvenor Pl. PPU group mtg.

Thursday, September 25

COVENTRY: 7.30 p.m. Earlsdon School, next Earlsdon Public Library (buses 1 and 9). Public Mtg.; Connie Jones; PPU.

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Bush Rd.; Charles Dingle on "The Basis of Christian Pacifism"; For & PPU.

LONDON, W.C.2: 12.30 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open air mtg.; Sybil Morrison and Robert Horniman; PPU.

LONDON, W.1: 7.30 p.m. Weigh House, Binney St. Oxford St.; public mtg.; Edith Adlam on "Can we Stop the Korean War?" Movement for Pacifist Church of Christ.

HAMPSTEAD: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Heath St. "The Significance of S. African Civil Disobedience Campaign." PPU.

Friday, September 26

BELFAST: 7.45 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Frederick St. Lucy Burr on "Modern China's Challenge to a Christian." For.

PORTSMOUTH: 7.30 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho.; Rev. R. C. Wood on "The Teaching of Jesus about War." For.

SCARBOROUGH: 7.30 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. York Place. Public mtg.; speakers: Dr. John Hick and Rev. Donald Douglas on "Christian Pacifism today." For.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: 7.30 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Grosvenor Park; Huen Faulkner on "Seeing for Myself in Russia." For.

Saturday, September 27

BRISTOL: 3 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Broadwell; PPU Western Area Rally; Minnie Pallister on "The Revival of Pacifism in the West"; bring and buy sale; tea.

Sat., Sept. 27-Sun., Sept. 28

LANCASTER: Grey Court Fellowship Guest House, Hest Bank. PPU N.W. Area Weekend Conference. Charge 15/- Sat. tea to Sun. tea. Bookings quickly to Llew Lloyd, 25 Derwent Ave, Prescot.

Sunday, September 28

LONDON, W.1: 3.15 p.m. Weigh House, Binney St. Oxford St.; combined services arranged by Movement for Pacifist Church of Christ and PPU Religious Fellowship; discourse by Sybil Morrison; discussion and light refreshments.

HUDDESFIELD: 8 p.m. The Manse, Fartown Trinity Methodist; Miss Joyce Keeling on "The Christian Gospel—Good News of Peace." For.

Thursday, October 2

HAMMERSMITH: 7.30 p.m. Town Hall, King St.; public debate on pacifism between PPU and Socialist Party of Gt Britain.

LONDON, W.C.2: 12.30 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open air mtg.; Sybil Morrison and Robert Horniman; PPU.

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Bush Rd. Topical Talk by Charles Titford. PPU.

Friday, October 3

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 6 Endsleigh St.; Central London Group mtg to discuss syllabus for study course. PPU.

Sat., Oct. 4-Sun., Oct. 5

MERSLEYSIDE: For Weekend Conference at Roslyn Private Hotel, 83 Dalmorton Rd. New Brighton; speaker: Rev. Clifford Macquire; details from G. Fred Williams, 19 Burnham Rd. Liverpool, 18.

Saturday, Nov 1 - Sunday, Nov 2

DAWLISH: Fairfield Guest House. PPU Area Conference on "War? We Say No! Our task in 1952." Speakers: Connie Jones and Alan Mister. Charge (Sat. tea to Monday breakfast) 27s. 9d. Bookings (with 5s. deposit) to Kathleen Jackson, Oakleigh School, Newton St. Cyres, Exeter.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENTS are required by the Thursday eight days prior to publication.

MEETINGS

INTERNATIONAL CLUB, Bath, Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, 18 Queen Square, Bath. All welcome.

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TRIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR NEW READERS

If the Dean had been Lloyd George

THERE are neither enough good men in Russia and China to make those countries a heaven, nor enough bad men to make them a hell, declared the Duke of Bedford, who was the opening speaker at a meeting in London last Sunday "to give the Dean of Canterbury a hearing."

It is unwise to be "anti" any large group of people, he said, be they Capitalists, Communists, Americans or Russians.

The Dean of Canterbury, who had visited China in 1932, told of the many great social and industrial improvements he found there in 1952.

There were, he said, many Church leaders there who believed that germ bombs had been dropped by America in the Korean war.

James Figgins, General Secretary of the NUR reminded the meeting that when Lloyd George spoke against the Boer War at a public meeting 50 years ago he had been smuggled out afterwards in a policeman's uniform in order to escape an angry mob.

"The Dean has not yet experienced that," said James Figgins, "because the people of this country have learned by experience that it is a bad thing to fight."

Mr. S. O. Davies, MP, also spoke and Mrs. Catherine Williamson, Quaker and former Mayor of Canterbury, was in the Chair.

SIR RICHARD GREGORY

SIR RICHARD GREGORY, FRS, who died on Monday at the age of 88, was one of the 18 prominent scientists who founded "Science for Peace" in 1951.

He was President of the British Association from 1939 to 1946, and in his presidential address in 1946 he denounced the atomic bomb, of which he said that "it broke up the heart of the human race as well as the heart of the atom."

"There can never be moral sanction for the mass destruction of human life by atom bombs or any other frightful means," he declared. "It is an offence against the light."

An obituary in the Manchester Guardian says that "though he shied at the word pacifist, he is known to have moved so far that he saw no salvation for the world, while the ultimate settlement of differences between man and man, or nation and nation, lay in human slaughter. In faith that such a day could assuredly come he worked to the end."

They deplore A-bomb

THE Executive Committee of the Association of Scientific Workers—a trade union with 13,000 members—has issued a statement deploring the entry of the British Government into the atomic arms race, which it describes as a retrograde step and an additional factor contributing towards international tension.

The statement recalls that at its recent annual council the Association expressed its concern at the waste of scientific effort and public money in the production of the atomic bomb and concludes "We therefore call upon the Government to combine concentration of effort on the peaceful uses of atomic energy with a fresh initiative to secure international agreement to ban atomic weapons."

GERMANY

(Continued from page one)

neutrality of Germany and her continued disarmament as part of an all-round scheme of disarmament. We urge, therefore, that every step should be taken to make the four-Power talks possible and effective, and that in the meantime nothing further should be done to take us to the point of no return. Because the agreement and treaty cannot become effective until all the Governments concerned have ratified them, and this course has still to be taken in Paris and Bonn, we are addressing a similar letter to the President of the French Republic and to the President of the western German Federal Republic.

The signatories are Norman Bentwich, H. N. Brailsford, Vera Brittain, G. D. H. Cole, Alex Comfort, A. C. Coppard, Joan Mary Fry, Laurence Housman, Kathleen Lonsdale, Naomi Mitchison, Charles Raven, Hugh Robertson, Donald Soper, Sybil Thorndike, Monica Whately, and Victor Yates, MP.

Emrys Hughes, M.P.

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Work Camps show the way

By REGINALD REYNOLDS

You'll never get to Heaven in a limousine
'Cos de Lord don't stock no gasoline...

THE words of a popular song were emphasised, not inappropriately, by the swinging of picks and the scraping of shovels.

The scene was a work camp—one of four in which I have lived and worked this summer in the most delightful pilgrimage I have ever undertaken.

Three of these projects were sponsored by the Friends Works Camps Committee, the fourth being a venture undertaken by members of the Youth Hostels Association.

Purposes and local conditions varied. At Fazakerley (Liverpool) and Sturminster Road (Bristol) the object was to assist in building a Community Centre in a new suburb. At Dodford, near Bromsgrove, the Friends Junior Camp—for boys and girls of 16 to 18—the work included draining a swamp and making a safe paddling pool at a holiday home for Birmingham nursery schools. Out at Tregaron, in West Wales, the YHA campers were repairing, extending and almost re-building a youth hostel.

AT Liverpool we occupied a house—one of the Fazakerley "Cottage Homes" for children. We considered ourselves very lucky. The only drawback was that baths and necessaria had been designed for children of five. But how fortunate we were to have baths at all! In the other camps we slept under canvas. At Dodford we had the use of a cow-shed for breakfast and our evening meal. There we met and sang, discussed or entertained one another in the evenings.

At Tregaron we ate in the one habitable room (other than the kitchen and the warden's diminutive office-cum-bedroom). But if unexpected youth hostellers arrived this room was the only place where they could sleep.

At Bristol our social centre was a large marquee. It stood on a sharp slope and the long trestle table at which we ate roughly followed the contour. If you sat on the higher side you had to be careful not to fall into your own soup; but the lower side was more dangerous, as the soup-plates were not anchored, either.

The juniors at Dodford lived in most isolation. They were also, apart from one delightful young German, a purely British group. But thrown on their own resources they developed a close comradeship.

We talk a lot about co-operation, but it's all hot air until you've lived in a working community. Then you know the difficulties and have to overcome them—things in yourself, for example, that don't make for co-operation.

Our work campers started off with a hard eight-hour day. They were untrained; and I remember that, before we finished our first day's work at Fazakerley, most of us wore "Elastoplast" somewhere. As they hardened, the campers stepped up the pace, for in every case it turned out that there was more to do than they expected. They worked ten hours a day or even more. They worked till they couldn't see to hit a nail. The Dodford youngsters gave up almost the whole of their last weekend to the job. On the last night there we took the shattering off the cement that lined the paddling pool by torchlight. It was 10 p.m.

All this is real education as Gandhi understood it: the education of work that teaches respect for work and those who do it. It is also a splendid test. When you've done ten hours hard labour you don't feel much like some extra chore—washing greasy plates, for example. But when volunteers were asked for there was never a moment's hesitation. I call that real co-operation.

FEW people in England fully understand what Gandhi did in India. They talk as though he just whistled to the people and they followed him. Gandhi could never have led a non-co-operation movement if he hadn't taught people first to co-operate.

That's the paradox. They had first to work together for a common purpose. He taught them that, by example chiefly, with the help of his trained and self-disciplined followers.

There is no hope for any application of Gandhi's ideas here if it leaves out the spiritual basis and the quiet, intensive, unspectacular "constructive work." If ever I'm in an organised movement of civil disobedience in England, I hope my companions will be work campers—people accustomed to pull together and pull hard.

VERY modest people, they were. Take those kids at Dodford. At 10 p.m. that last night, having at last finished work, they settled down for a group "evaluation" of the whole project. They talked till midnight, after a long day (breakfast in those parts was at 7.30). They didn't think much of themselves and seemed to feel they should have done better in almost every way.

But don't get the idea they were growing wings. My bed was missing that evening—somehow it had walked into a disused hen-coop.

Other camps had a better opportunity to "fraternise" with the local people. At Bristol this was helped along by the storms that nearly washed the camp away in the first days. Sturminster doors were opened in a big way; and when I arrived I was offered a hot bath—something of a change after the chilly mountain torrent which was our only water supply at Tregaron. But at Sturminster there was a goodly panel of houses, where dirty campers were welcome to all the hot water they wanted in a real bathroom.

We got on famously with these kind people. Their children, it's true, mistook the camp for a circus. But there were those who knew how to get co-operation even from children. The last I saw of the most mischievous little imp at Sturminster, he was working our concrete mixer—not bad for a boy of eleven.

People kept telling us what a grand idea this camp notion was. It put a new face on work—something you did for the joy and fellowship of it and for its service value, the way it ought to be with all work everywhere.

But our youngsters never got swelled head with the things that were said to them and about them—not even with the local press publicity, which knocked spots off anything you could get by preaching pacifism.

The local folk did well to admire our girls, the way they tackled the heavy work. But at Liverpool and Bristol there were a few contractors' men doing the more skilled jobs. We'd learnt just enough to realise how much better they did the job. That kept our feet on the ground. And how proud we were at Liverpool when these "professionals" started to treat us as old friends and joined us for meals!

I DON'T know what opinion people at Fazakerley or Bristol originally had of "foreigners". I do know they never ceased to marvel at the idea of people from America and so many parts of Europe coming to lend a hand.

Above, left: Working on the roof of Fazakerley's (Liverpool) new community centre are (left at back): Guntram Garbe of Hanover and Alex Maclean of Liverpool; preparing the roof for felting in the foreground are Kertu Raty of Finland, Eva Maria Kaifenheim, Berlin, Julianne Travers, USA, and Margaret Mence, Welwyn; Frederik Raastad, Norway, is working on the walls.

Above, right: Reginald Reynolds is helping Michael Serjeant, Mr. Honiball (of the Community Association) and Michael Webb—all British—making alterations to the sections.

Below: It's not often you see a school-teacher down a hole. Foundations for the Community Centre at Sturminster (Bristol) had to go down 8 feet so Barbara Klein, Harrow school-teacher-turned-work-camper went down 8 feet too. Watching her is David Ensor of London, left, and local children.



Even out at Tregaron the same was true. I say "even" because we weren't doing anything exactly for the people of Tregaron. But sixteen Germans—two-thirds of the original working party—had come all that way to work for love on a piece of Welsh property, the object being to make a habitable place where hikers and cyclists in West Wales could find cheap accommodation. That seemed good enough for the Welsh farmers and shop-keepers. They took us—even the English—to their hearts and gave us a fine party when the sad day came on which we finished work.

THESE are only a few glimpses of four camps—four out of about eighty run by different organisations in different parts of the world. I hope they are only the beginning of a great movement.

Each organisation has its own peculiar contribution, but together they hold the clue to a great popular drive towards positive peace. Youth has now an offer of adventure, in place of the old negative slogans.

Speaking for myself, I have had no experience so inspiring since the days when I worked with Gandhi.

The Society of Friends has been much in the news these last two years, what with the Moscow Mission, the Oxford Conference and the Tercentenary. But consider that the best job of work we have done since the war was to set up our Work Camps Committee in 1947 and take our place as a Christian Society in the movement of which Pierre Ceresole and the International Voluntary Service for Peace were the fore-runners.

Friends Meeting House : Broadweir : Bristol

PEACE PLEDGE UNION

WESTERN AREA RALLY

Speaker :— MINNIE PALLISTER

REVIVAL OF PACIFISM IN THE WEST

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Bring-and-buy Sale of Garden Produce for PPU Funds

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